

Glossary of Terms & Acronyms

Common in Refugee Resettlement

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
AHCCCS	Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
ALERT	Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking
AOR	Affidavit of Relationship
ARCC.....	Arizona Refugee Community Center
ASCC.....	Association for Supportive Child Care
BCC.....	Betania Community Center
BIA.....	Board of Immigration Appeals
BPRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
BRYCS	Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Services
CAL.....	Center for Applied Linguistics
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Catholic Charities
CCS.....	Catholic Community Service of Southern Arizona
CDC.....	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COAR	Community Outreach & Advocacy for Refugees
CWS.....	Church World Service
DES	Arizona Department of Economic Security
DHS.....	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
DOS	U.S. Department of State
EAD.....	Employment Authorization Document
ECDC.....	Ethiopian Community Development Council
EEOC.....	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EMM.....	Episcopal Migration Ministries
EOIR.....	Executive Office of Immigration Review
ESL/ESOL	English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of other Languages
FAA.....	Family Assistance Administration

FS.....Food Stamps
GPRAGovernment Performance and Results Act
HIAS.....Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
IDP.....Internally Displaced Person
IEPIndividual Employment Plan
INAImmigration and Nationality Act
IOMInternational Organization for Migration
IRC.....International Rescue Committee
IRCA.....Immigration Reform and Control Act
JFCSJewish Family and Children’s Services
JVAJoint Voluntary Agency
LIRS.....Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
LPRLawful Permanent Resident
LSMS.....Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest
MAAMutual Assistance Association
MG/MGP.....Matching Grant/Matching Grant Program
MHD.....Maricopa Health Department
MTR.....Motion to Reconsider
NGO.....Non-governmental Organization
OCROffice of Civil Rights
ODPOrderly Departure Program
ORROffice of Refugee Resettlement
PCAE.....Pima College Adult Education
R&PReception and Placement
RCA.....Refugee Cash Assistance
RCUSARefugee Council USA
RMA/RMAPRefugee Medical Assistance/Refugee Medical Assistance Program
RPC.....Refugee Processing Center
RRPRefugee Resettlement Program
SS.....Social Services
SSI.....Supplemental Security Income
TA.....Technical Assistance

TAG.....Targeted Assistance Grant
TANF.....Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TIARC.....Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities
TPSTemporary Protected Status
UNHCRUnited Nations High Commission on Refugees
URMUnaccompanied Refugee Minor
USCCBUnited States Conference of Catholic Bishops
USCISUnited States Customs and Immigration Service
USCRI.....US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
VOLAGVoluntary Agency
VOPVerification of Placement
VOTVictim of Trafficking
WHO.....World Health Organization
WRAPSWorldwide Refugee Admissions and Processing System
WRDWorld Refugee Day

Acronyms are followed by their meanings. In many cases a brief description is given of the entry.

A

A number

identifying number—currently nine digits prefixed by the letter "A"—assigned to an immigrant's Department of Homeland Security file, temporary resident cards, permanent resident cards and other DHS-issued documents

ABA / American Bar Association

a voluntary professional association of attorneys that provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public

ACF / Administration for Children and Families

agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides national leadership and direction to plan, manage and coordinate the nationwide administration of comprehensive and supportive programs for vulnerable children and families; parent agency of the Office of Refugee Resettlement

ACLU / American Civil Liberties Union

ADA / Americans With Disabilities Act

requires all public accommodations and commercial facilities to be accessible for people with disabilities

admissions

numbers of refugees approved by the U.S. government to enter the country in a given year

affiliate

local program through which VOLAG local offices resettle refugees and may provide immigration legal services

AFDC / Aid to Families With Dependent Children

former federally funded cash welfare program replaced by Transitional Assistance for Needy Families

AI / Amnesty International

worldwide organization that promotes internationally recognized human rights standards and seeks to prevent and end grave human rights abuses; based in London

ALERT / Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking

AILA / American Immigration Lawyers Association

association of attorneys specializing in the field of immigration and nationality law; headquartered in Washington, D.C.

allocations

weekly meetings during which representatives of U.S. refugee resettlement agencies receive allocations of refugees' cases and biographical data on refugees requiring assurances from the Refugee Data Center

Amerasian

individual fathered by a U.S. citizen and born in Vietnam between January 1, 1962 and January 1, 1976

amnesty

program established by the Immigration Reform and Control Act through which eligible undocumented persons could receive permanent resident status; officially known as legalization

AOR / Affidavit of Relationship

form affirming the relationship between a former refugee or an asylee now living in the United States and a family member still living overseas in one of the countries indicated as eligible in the annual presidential determination; completion and notarization of this form begins the process of family reunification

AOS / Affidavit of Support

Department of Homeland Security forms I-134 and I-864 promising to support an alien entering the United States so that the alien will not become a public charge

ARC / American Red Cross

humanitarian organization founded in 1881 under a congressional charter to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies

assurance

written commitment submitted by the resettlement agency to immigration to (a) provide or ensure the provision of core services for a refugee or refugees or (b) assure immigration that an immigrant or immigrants will not become a burden on the U.S. Government

asylee

asylum winner; non-U.S. Citizen in the United States whose application for asylum has been adjudicated by the DOJ and about whom a determination has been made that he or she is "unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion"

asylum seeker

person who has fled personal danger in his or her home country, has entered the United States directly in search of safety and protection and in order to stay must apply for asylum

B**BIA / Board of Immigration Appeals**

division of the EOIR; highest administrative body for interpreting and applying immigration laws, hears appeals of decisions made in individual cases by Immigration Judges, immigration District Directors, or other immigration officials

biodata

two- to three-page form containing biographical data about a refugee recorded by a refugee camp interviewer then sent to the RDC, where the allocation of the case to a resettlement agency takes place; generally the only advance information available about a refugee

BPRM / Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

government agency within the U.S. Department of State (DOS) that formulates, implements and directs U.S. refugee and migration policies and programs; responsible for the management of the U.S. admissions program and the initial resettlement of refugees in the United States

C

CAL / Center for Applied Linguistics

private, nonprofit organization that uses the findings of linguistics and related sciences to identify and address language-related problems through research, education, technical assistance and policy analysis

CAT / Convention Against Torture

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) document published in 1984 to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms

CBO / community-based organization

CDC / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

one of the major operating components of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the principal agency in the United States government for protecting the health and safety of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for people who are least able to help themselves. Under the CDC is the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, which has statutory responsibility to make and enforce regulations necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States. The Division oversees the medical examination of aliens in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act

CFR / Code of Federal Regulations

set of volumes giving regulations that each administrative agency writes to further delineate the meaning of laws that govern the agency; regulations for immigration are given in Title 8 of the code

CIS / Center for Immigration Studies

nonprofit organization devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States

CLINIC / Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.

cofounder of the DWN

cooperative agreement

agreement between BPRM and a VOLAG outlining the core services the agency is responsible for providing to newly arrived refugees; for family reunion cases these services cover the refugees' first 90 days and for free cases the first 180 days

Cuban/Haitian entrant

status accorded to (a) Cubans who entered the United States illegally between April 15 and October 10, 1980, and (b) Haitians who entered the country illegally before January 1, 1981, who have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1982, who were known to immigration before that date and who are therefore eligible to adjust to permanent residence status under the law

CWS / Church World Service

relief, development and refugee service arm of the NCCC; its Refugee and Immigration Program was established in 1946; based in New York

D

DED / Deferred Enforced Departure

temporary legal status conferred by the President protecting foreign nationals from deportation

DFMS / Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

agency of the Episcopal Church in which EMM is located

DHHS / U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**DHS / U.S. Department of Homeland Security****DOD / U.S. Department of Defense****DOJ / U.S. Department of Justice****DOS / U.S. Department of State****DWN / Detention Watch Network**

organization founded in 1997 by LIRS, CLINIC and FIRRP dedicated to the fair treatment of asylum seekers and others held in immigration detention

E

ECDC / Ethiopian Community Development Council

agency established in 1983 to respond to the service delivery needs of Ethiopians fleeing repressive governmental policies in their homeland; based in Arlington, Virginia

EMM / Episcopal Migration Ministries

channel through which the Episcopal Church responds to refugees, displaced persons, and asylum seekers; based in New York City

EOIR / Executive Office of Immigration Review

agency within the DOJ that administers and interprets Federal immigration laws and regulations through the conduct of immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings in individual cases through BIA, OCIJ and OCAHA

EWI / entry without inspection

entering the US without authorization by a BCIS official

EU / European Union

an intergovernmental and supranational union of 25 democratic countries known as member states

F

family reunification

resettlement case in which refugees are reunited with relatives already residing in the United States

FIRRP / Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project

agency in Florence, Arizona, also known as the Florence Project - that provides pro bono legal services to detainees; cofounder of DWN

FOIA / Freedom of Information Act

means of access to information on activities of the federal government

FR / Federal Register

U.S. Government publication that announces all federal regulations and guidelines

free case

refugee case without family ties in the United States; may be placed in any geographic area at the discretion of the resettlement agency

FSU / Former Soviet Union**FY / fiscal year**

for the federal government, the 12-month period from October 1 to September 30

G**green card**

immigration document—Form I-151 or I-551—certifying lawful permanent resident status; also known as a permanent resident card, alien registration receipt card or resident alien card; not necessarily green in color

guardian ad litem

a person appointed by a court to represent the best interests of a minor child involved in legal proceedings

H**H1-B visa**

temporary work permit commonly issued to high-tech foreign workers

HIAS / Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

refugee and migration agency of the organized Jewish community in the United States; based in New York City

HIPAA / Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act

1996 federal legislation on privacy of health information

HRW / Human Rights Watch

advocacy group that investigates human rights abuses in some 70 countries, including the human rights of refugees and displaced persons

I**I-94**

immigration control document that notes every non-U.S. Citizen's or permanent resident's immigration status, arrival in and departure from the United States, and period of time for which the person is admitted

ICRC / International Committee of the Red Cross**IDA / Individual Development Account**

matched savings accounts that can be used only for purchasing a first home or car, capitalizing a small business, or for education or job training expenses, typically managed by community organizations

IDP / internally displaced person

civilians of a country internally displaced by persecution or armed conflict; share many characteristics

with refugees who cross an international border, but because they remain inside their own countries are not protected under international refugee law

IIRIRA / Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

legislation that increases criminal penalties for immigration-related offenses, authorizes increases in enforcement personnel and enforcement authority. The Act also undertakes comprehensive reorganization of the process of removal for inadmissible and deportable foreign nationals, including expedited removal at ports of entry. The Act also restricts the eligibility of immigrants for public benefits and imposes more demanding requirements on sponsors of immigrant relatives

IMMACT / Immigration Act of 1990

legislation that increased the number of permanent visas available each year for family- and work-sponsored immigration, reorganized the visa preference system, created a program of temporary safe haven with the status TPS for persons fleeing their countries of origin under certain circumstances, granted TPS to Salvadorans, created a family unity program, revised the grounds of exclusion, shifted the responsibility from Congress to the executive branch for deciding whether HIV-infected persons or persons with AIDS should be barred from entering the United States, and brought changes to the administrative naturalization process

immigrant

the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) broadly defines an immigrant as any alien in the United States, except one legally admitted under nonimmigrant categories

INA / Immigration and Nationality Act

The Act contained in Title 8 of the USC which, along with other immigration laws, treaties, and conventions of the United States, relates to the immigration, temporary admission, naturalization, and removal of aliens

InterAction / American Council for Voluntary International Action

association of some 160 U.S. private and voluntary organizations working in humanitarian emergency relief, international development, public policy and federal relations, and development education

interest

document filed with the Refugee Data Center (RDC) by the resettlement agency on behalf of U.S.-based relatives or friends to indicate the agency's relationship with a case

IOM / International Organization for Migration

established in 1951 and the principal intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, with 116 member states. IOM arranges resettlement processing and transportation for migrants and refugees; administers interest-free transportation loans for most refugees who resettle in the United States, and often provides programs for medical screening, language training and cultural orientation; headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

IRC / International Rescue Committee

nonsectarian agency founded in 1933 to provide global emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by conflict and oppression; based in New York City

IRCA / Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

legislation that provided for the legalization of specific groups of non-U.S. citizens, prohibited the employment of persons who were not authorized by immigration to work, and established sanctions against employers who hired persons not authorized to work

ISS / International Social Service

nonsectarian agency whose 146 autonomous national branches, affiliated bureaus and correspondents provide services to individuals and families who encounter socio-legal problems around the world and bridge and strengthen family ties that have weakened as a result of forced migration or family mobility; founded in 1924; based in Geneva, Switzerland

IV / immigration visa

immigration endorsement granted to individuals who plan to seek permanent resident status

J**JVA / Joint Voluntary Agency**

agency under contract with DOS to document and process overseas refugees for admission to the United States

JVAR / Joint Voluntary Agency representative

official representative of the U.S. voluntary agencies overseas who functions under contract with the DOS to carry out interviewing, documenting and processing of refugees in those countries from which refugees are being resettled in the United States

L**LCHR / Lawyers Committee for Human Rights**

public interest law center based in New York concerned about the fields of international human rights and refugee law

LIRS / Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

cooperative agency of the ELCA, LCMS and LELCA for ministry with refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented persons and immigrants; begun in 1939; headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland

Long Form

RRP record of refugee arrivals in Arizona by country of origin and year of arrival

LPR / lawful permanent resident

non-U.S. Citizen who enters the United States with an immigrant visa or who has achieved permanent status after entering; entitled to live and work in the United States and collect entitlement benefits, if categorically qualified

LTD / long-term detainee

individual held in immigration detention for long or indefinite period of time, usually scheduled for deportation to a country with which the United States has no formal relations

M**MAA / Mutual Assistance Association**

ethnic organization that provides culturally relevant and community-based services to refugees

MGP / matching grant program

program funded by ORR with the goal of helping refugees attain self-sufficiency within four months after their arrival in the United States without access to public cash assistance; gives up to \$2,000 per refugee, which must be matched by the VOLAGs participating in the program

MRA / Migration and Refugee Assistance Account

account within the DOS budget that funds refugee protection and assistance programs overseas such as those of the UNHCR and IOM and an array of activities relating to the admission of refugees to the United States including agreements with JVA offices, costs of refugee processing and documentation, cultural orientation programs, transportation through IOM and R&P grants to U.S. resettlement agencies

MRS / Migration and Refugee Services

USCCB office responsible for developing policy on migration, immigration and refugee issues, and for providing program support and regional coordination for its regional network

N

N-400

immigration application form for naturalization

N-648 / Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions

immigration form for applicants seeking an exception from the English and U.S. history and government (civics) requirements for naturalization based on physical or developmental disability or mental impairment

NACARA / Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act

legislation enacted in 1997 allowing certain long-term aliens from Nicaragua, Cuba, Guatemala and El Salvador to adjust to permanent resident status

NATO / North Atlantic Treaty Organization

an alliance of 26 countries from North America and Europe committed to enhancing the stability, well-being, and freedom of its members through a system of collective security. Members of the alliance agree to defend one another from attack by other nations or by terrorist groups; headquartered in Brussels, Belgium

naturalization

process of becoming a U.S. Citizen after five years of lawful permanent residency in the United States

NCLR / National Council of La Raza

nonprofit organization working for equal opportunities for Hispanic Americans

NGO / nongovernmental organization**NIF / National Immigration Forum**

association of some 250 ethnic, religious, and service organizations that advocates and builds public support for public policies that are fair and supportive to refugees and immigrants

NILC / National Immigration Law Center

national support center that protects and promotes the rights of low-income immigrants and their family members through policy analysis, impact litigation, publications, technical advice and training; based in Los Angeles, California

NIV / nonimmigrant visa

DOS endorsement granted to individuals who are not planning to seek permanent resident status

NPO / nonprofit organization; not-for-profit organization

NTA / Notice to Appear

immigration written notice to a person alleging that the person is removable from the United States and listing the particular charges against the person

O**OCIJ / Office of the Chief Immigration Judge**

office of EOIR that oversees all the Immigration Courts and their proceedings throughout the United States

OCAHO / Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer

office of EOIR that resolves cases concerning employer sanctions, document fraud, and immigration-related employment discrimination

ODP / Orderly Departure Program

program established in 1979 by the government of Vietnam and the UNHCR that allowed Vietnamese who had been accepted by the United States and other countries to emigrate legally from Vietnam; provided an alternative to clandestine and hazardous boat departures from that country

OFDA / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

office of USAID that provides U.S. assistance to victims of natural disasters and complex emergencies in foreign countries

OIG / Office of the Inspector General

office that promotes economy, efficiency and effectiveness and enforces criminal and civil laws, regulations and ethical standards within a department of the U.S. Government

OJP / Office of Justice Programs

office of DOJ that provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims

OMB / Office of Management and Budget

office that assists the President in overseeing the preparation of the federal budget and to supervise its administration in executive branch agencies

ORR / Office of Refugee Resettlement

agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, that plans, develops and directs implementation of a comprehensive program for domestic refugee and entrant resettlement assistance. It develops, recommends, and issues program policies, procedures and interpretations to provide program direction. ORR's major goal is to provide assistance to help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment within the shortest time possible following their arrival in the U.S., through cash and medical assistance, social services, targeted assistance, preventive health services, services to unaccompanied refugee minors, and the matching grant program. ORR also provides specialized assistance to entrants, victims of torture, and victims of trafficking

OTM / other than Mexican

term used by the USCIS

P

P1, P2, P3, etc.

processing priorities for the admission of refugees into the United States

PA / principal applicant

usually refers to the head of the household in a refugee case

parole

action taken at the discretion of immigration to permit a person to come into the United States without actually being admitted

per capita grant

grant, whose terms are spelled out in the cooperative agreement, to a VOLAG by DOS/BPRM for each refugee resettled for provision of services during the refugee's first 90 days in the United States

preferred communities

communities that are considered especially favorable for the resettlement of refugees

presidential determination on refugee admissions

an annual memorandum from the U.S. President to the Secretary of State setting ceilings for U.S. refugee admissions

port of entry

any location in the United States or its territories designated as an entry point for aliens and U.S. Citizens including all immigration district offices since they become locations of entry for aliens adjusting to immigrant status

PRUCOL / person residing under color of law

statute that makes it a crime for any person acting under color of law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom to willfully deprive or cause to be deprived from any person those rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the U.S.

R

R&P / reception and placement

program dealing with the initial reception and placement of refugees in the United States as carried out by the VOLAGs under agreements with the DOS/BPRM

RCA / refugee cash assistance

time-limited and need-based transitional cash assistance provided to refugees who do not qualify for cash assistance under the TANF or SSI programs and meet federally established income eligibility requirements

RCUSA / Refugee Council USA

coalition of U.S. NGOs that advocates on issues affecting the protection and rights of refugees and displaced persons in the United States and across the world; formed in 2000

RDC / Refugee Data Center

center in New York City that operates refugee case allocations and R&P grant verification on behalf of DOS/BRPM

refugee

person admitted to the United States from a country of first asylum and who is "unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

Refugee Act of 1980

legislation that incorporated into U.S. law the essence of the international definition of a refugee derived from the 1951 U.N. Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Protocol of 1967; replaced the previous parole system for the admission of refugees with an annual quota determined by the President after consultations with Congress

refugee authorized admissions

number of refugees, divided by region (Africa, East Asia, South Asia and Near East, Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union, Latin America and the Caribbean and some unallocated) to be admitted to the United States in a given federal fiscal year as determined by the President after consultations with Congress

RFP / Request for Proposal

document soliciting a proposal for goods or services

RMA / Refugee Medical Assistance

ORR-funded time-limited medical assistance for refugees who meet income eligibility requirements

RMAP / Refugee Medical Assistance Program

Arizona's Refugee Medical Assistance Program

RMAP Card

RRP's Refugee Medical Assistance Program identification card

RRP / (Arizona) Refugee Resettlement Program**RTS / Refugee Tracking System**

database system containing information on refugees

S**SCORR / State Coordinators of Refugee Resettlement**

the professional association of directors and managers who administer the State refugee programs

SEARAC / Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

organization that advocates for and represents Americans of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese descent; based in Washington, D.C.

Secondary Migrant

refers to a refugee who originally resettles in one state and subsequently moves to another state after initial Reception and Placement

SIJ / Special Immigrant Juvenile status

unique immigration status available only to unaccompanied minors who are dependent on the state and eligible for long-term foster care

SPC / Service Processing Center

term immigration uses for its detention facilities

SSI / Supplemental Security Income

federal income supplement program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people, who have little or no income by providing cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter

SSN / Social Security number

T

TANF / Transitional Assistance for Needy Families

federal program under DHS/ACF that replaced what was commonly known as welfare: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) programs. TANF provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds to develop and implement their own welfare programs

Title 8

Section of the USC that contains U.S. Immigration laws

TPS / Temporary Protected Status

status granted by the U.S. Attorney General to nationals of a foreign country with a finding that conditions in that country pose a danger to personal safety due to ongoing armed conflict or an environmental disaster; initially made for periods of 6 to 18 months and may be extended depending on the situation

TVPA / TVPRA Trafficking Victims Protection Act and Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

legislation that makes human trafficking a federal crime and authorizes critical programs in the United States' anti-trafficking efforts, through a three-pronged approach to protect victims, prosecute traffickers and to prevent trafficking worldwide. It creates a non-immigrant T visa that allows trafficked persons to stay in the United States if they cooperate with law enforcement. The protection and assistance measures include collaboration between NGOs, shelters, and health-care providers through the provision of funds and support. The legislation also mandates the Department of State to produce an annual Trafficking in Persons report to assess governments' anti-trafficking efforts around the world

U

U.N. Convention on the Status of Refugees (1951) and the Protocol of 1967

the 1951 Convention defines what the term 'refugee' means, and outlines a refugee's rights, the kind of legal protection – including nonrefoulement, other assistance, and social rights he or she should receive from parties to the document. The 1967 Protocol removes the geographical and time limitations written into the original Convention under which, mainly Europeans involved in events occurring before January 1, 1951, could apply for refugee status

undocumented person

individual who enters the United States without documentation or remains after the time authorized to stay by immigration

UNHCR / United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

oversees the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, established in 1950, which is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems

worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, and strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country

UNHCHR / United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

operates under the United Nations Secretariat with the mandate of promoting and protecting the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights laws and treaties

URM / unaccompanied refugee minor

refugee child or adolescent who comes to the United States without a parent or guardian

URM Program

ORR-funded program of support for URM that provides foster care and other benefits

USAID / U.S. Agency for International Development

federal agency that works to achieve sustainable development and advance U.S. foreign policy objectives

USC / U.S. Citizen

under immigration, a person who is born in the United States, including the 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands; or who become a citizen through naturalization; or who is born outside the United States to U.S. Citizen parents under qualifying circumstances (derivative citizenship) and who has not renounced U.S. citizenship

USCCB / United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

public policy and social action agency of the Roman Catholic bishops in the United States; formerly United States Catholic Conference (USCC); headquarters in Washington, D.C.

USCIS / U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

a bureau of DHS responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication functions and establishing immigration services policies and priorities

USCRI / U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

nonsectarian national VOLAG that addresses the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life; based in Washington, D.C.

USRP / U.S. Refugee Program

V

VAWA / Violence Against Women Act

passed by Congress in 1994, an Act under which the spouses of United States citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPR) may self-petition to obtain permanent residency. The immigrant provisions of VAWA allow certain battered immigrants to file for immigration relief without the abuser's assistance or knowledge, to seek safety and independence from the abuser

Victim of Trafficking (also referred to as a trafficked person or survivor of trafficking)

a person who is transported from other regions or countries and forced to work through deception, coercion, or actual threatened physical violence in situations that are abusive, exploitative, inhumane, and illegal

Visa

DOS document authorizing a non-U.S. Citizen to enter and remain in the United States for certain periods of time and for certain purposes

VOLAG / voluntary agency

one of ten agencies (CWS, ECDC, EMM, HIAS, IDHS, IRC, USCRI, LIRS, USCCB and WR) that resettles refugees admitted to the United States

W**WHO / World Health Organization**

the United Nations specialized agency for health, established in 1948, based in Geneva, Switzerland

WOAT / World Organization Against Torture

non-profit human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy group, based in Washington, D.C.

World Refugee Survey

annual publication of USCRI that reports on the conditions for refugees and internally displaced persons around the world

WRAPS / Worldwide Refugee Admissions and Processing System

global system to track movements of refugees from various countries around the world to the United States for resettlement

WR / World Relief

international assistance arm of the National Association of Evangelicals that provides overseas relief and development help in countries of first asylum and domestic refugee resettlement with the involvement of local evangelical churches; based in Baltimore, Maryland